

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 221602

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 SS-15

INR-07 CPR-01 PRS-01 /053 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL,JR:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

A/SY/PRS:WPDECOURNEY (DRAFT)

-----114776 152050Z /75

P R 152021Z SEP 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO U S.

REF: DAMASCUS 5806

1. BASED UPON REFTEL, WE HAVE SET IN MOTION ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE SECURITY PROTECTION FOR KHADDAM IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, AS WELL AS DURING TRAVEL BETWEEN THOSE CITIES.

2. RE USE OF METROLINER WASHINGTON/NEW YORK, SY CONSIDERS THAT MODE OF TRAVEL ACCEPTABLE FROM SECURITY STANDPOINT ON CONDITION THAT PARTY RESERVE CLUB SEATING IN PRIVATE CAR, RATHER THAN COACH. WE PRESUME THEY WOULD DO SO IN ANY CASE, BUT RECOMMEND THAT RESERVATIONS BE MADE IN INNOCUOUS NAME ASAP TO AVOID PROBLEMS.

3. METROLINER DEPARTS WASHINGTON EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR
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BEGINNING 0600 HOURS LOCAL UNTIL 1800 HOURS. TRIP TO NYC SCHEDULED TO TAKE APPROXIMATELY THREE RPT THREE HOURS.

4. IF KHADDAM WISHES DEPART EVENING SEPTEMBER 28 AND HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE COUNTRYSIDE ENROUTE, WE SUGGEST HE TAKE TRAIN DEPARTING 1600 HOURS LOCAL (ARRIVING NYC 1904 HOURS

LOCAL), BY OUR CALCULATIONS, SUNSET SEPTEMBER 28 SHOULD OCCUR APPROX. 1840 HOURS LOCAL. ON OTHER HAND, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT 1600 HOURS DEPARTURE WOULD OCCUR DURING BEGINNING OF WASHINGTON RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE221602
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WNHOWELL,JR:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770335-0758
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770959/aaaabxpm.tel
Line Count: 66
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a50aaa45-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DAMASCUS 5806
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1256351
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO U S.
TAGS: OVIP, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a50aaa45-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009